(viii) Beggar Relief Scheme.

268. The Act for the Prohibition of Beggary was continued to be in force in the Corporation Area of the City of Bangalore and Mysore City during the year.

269. About 3,388 beggars were arrested by the special staff of the Colony as against 1,316 during the previous year. Of these, 2,374 beggars being the first offenders were released by the Receiving Officer after holding detailed enquiry and obtaining self-bond or surety bond as the case may be on their promise not to beg again, as against 614 in the previous year. The remaining beggars were produced before the Magistrate who after enquiry released 648 beggars as against 546 in the previous year. Twenty beggars who were found to be incorrigible were sentenced by the Court to undergo simple imprisonment ranging from two weeks to twelve weeks in the Central Jail. Six beggars were sentenced. Two hundred and sixty-six beggars were ordered to be detained and transferred to the Relief Centre and they were maintained in the Colony. The number of persons so transferred and maintained in the Relief Centre during the previous year was 118. Seventy-six beggars who were non-Mysorean second offenders were repatriated up to the State border under the charge of the Railway Guard as against 39 persons during the previous year.

270. The total number of beggars who were permanently detained and given food and clothing was 459 (269). Of these, 113 beggars were discharged by the Magistrate on furnishing proper surety and the number of beggars so discharged during the previous year was 36. One hundred and twenty-four beggars who gave assurance that they will not beg and would try to live as good citizens were released by the officer-in-charge on parole.

Forty-three (20) beggars were admitted to several hospitals. The total number of beggars at the close of the year in the Beggar Colony was 142.

The Industries Department have opened a Mat-weaving centre at the colony and one Mat-weaving Instructor was deputed to give practical demonstration in weaving mats and train the able bodied beggars in the art of mat-weaving.